

PLAS - O - GRAM <99-05> PLAS Timeout Setting

PLAS Sentient Beings,

This information may improve the response time for PLAS users who use the IBM Internet Service provider (ISP).

You are encouraged to discuss this with your LAN administrators, decide how to best ensure all IBM ISP users receive this information and provide any assistance they may require in making the change. Or you can refer them to plashelp@mwest.dcmdc.dla.mil or 1-888-PLASINFO for assistance.

The change involves editing the PLAS.INI file, and changing the value on the ConnectionTimeout line from 1 to 10 (i.e., changing ConnectionTimeout=1 to ConnectionTimeout=10). The ConnectionTimeout line is near the top of the PLAS.INI file.

The PLAS.INI file is normally in the \WINDOWS directory (in Windows 3.1 or 95), or in the \WINNT directory (in Windows NT). It might be on either the C or D drive, depending on how the user's workstation is configured.

Note: There is a second PLAS.INI file in the PLAS directory (normally C:\PLAS or D:\PLAS). However, this is not the file that contains the ConnectionTimeout line. The appropriate PLAS.INI is either in the \WINDOWS or \WINNT directory.

The PLAS.INI file may be edited with any suitable text editor (such as NOTEPAD or the DOS EDIT), or word processor. If the file is edited with a word processor (such as Microsoft Word), it must be saved as a standard ASCII text file. It is also possible to edit the file by finding it with Windows Explorer, and then double clicking on the filename.

Do not change any other values in the PLAS.INI file.

The next release of PLAS will default to ConnectionTimeout=10, so eventually everyone will have it. The next release will also contain other enhancements to improve response time for everyone. In the meantime, however, it may be beneficial for IBM ISP users to make this particular change now. It may also be beneficial for others who experience an unusually long response time with PLAS.

Users who log into PLAS through the Local Area Network or with other dial-up protocols may not notice a significant improvement in response time by changing the ConnectionTimeout value. Considering the amount of effort involved in changing the PLAS.INI on all workstations, it is not necessary to notify everyone at this time.

The people most likely to benefit from the change are those who dial in using the IBM ISP and those who have an unusually long response time with other dial-up protocols.

Questions? Contact us at 1-888-PLASINFO or PLASHELP@mwest.dcmdc.dla.mil.

Respectfully,

Don Peterson
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